



Featured Speakers

Laura Owens is the president of TransCen, an organization that provides training and technical assistance to improve educational and employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities. She was the Executive Director of APSE (the Association of People Supporting Employment-First), and is the founder of Creative Employment Opportunities, Inc. (CEO), an employment agency for individuals with disabilities.

Kathleen West-Evans, is director of Business Relations for the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR). Kathleen has more than 30 years of experience in vocational rehabilitation and employment. She is the founder and lead staff person for development of The National Employment Team (The NET)—the national Vocational Rehabilitation-Business Network serving business customers, VR consumers with disabilities, and the 80 state vocational rehabilitation agencies.

Patricia Leahy is the director of Government Affairs for the National Rehabilitation Association. Patricia is a Capitol Hill veteran, having served 18 years as a professional staff member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, and as a Congressional Liaison for all legislation that affected children and adults with disabilities to the Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA).

David DeNotaris is the executive director of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation for the commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He has over 20 years experience developing, implementing and promoting educational, employment and technology training programs for individuals experiencing disabilities.

Ralph Roach is the Business Services and Outreach Division Chief at the PA Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. His expertise focuses on vocational rehabilitation and employer outreach and engagement.

Lori A. Bruch is an associate professor and chair of the Counseling and Human Services Department at The University of Scranton. She has over three decades of leadership and service in the field of rehabilitation as a direct service provider, supervisor, administrator, educator, researcher, and advocate.

Jamie Prioli is an Assistive Technology Specialist and Program Coordinator for the Reused and Exchanged Equipment Partnership (REEP) at Pennsylvania Institute of Assistive Technology (PIAT). She is responsible for information, technical assistance, device demonstrations, and funding assistance related to assistive technology.



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The University of Scranton
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THE UNIVERSITY OF
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14th Annual Northeastern U.S. Conference on disABILITY



Vocational Rehabilitation Works!

October 21, 2015

8:30 a.m.–6:30 p.m.

*Patrick & Margaret DeNaples Center
The University of Scranton*

Honorary Chairpersons:
Edward R. & Patricia Leahy

Presented by:
The University of Scranton
The Panuska College of Professional Studies
Edward R. Leahy, Jr., Endowment

Evening Keynote Presentation OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY

Rebecca Alexander: Born with Usher Syndrome Type III, Rebecca Alexander, 36, has been simultaneously losing both her vision and hearing since she was a child, and was told that she would likely be completely blind and deaf by age 30. Rebecca is a psychotherapist, author, fitness instructor, advocate, and extreme athlete who holds two master's degrees from Columbia University in Public Health and Clinical Social Work. Rebecca's memoir, *Not Fade Away: A Memoir of Senses Lost and Found* (Penguin Books; September 2014) received an Indie Book Award and an award from the MS Society's *Books For A Better Life*. In her memoir, Rebecca tells her life story which is harrowing, funny, and inspiring.

Conference Mission

The University of Scranton believes that disability is part of the human experience and that assisting individuals and families living with disabilities to achieve optimal quality of life requires multi-disciplinary interventions, education, research and leadership. The mission of the Conference on disABILITY is to positively influence the quality of life and wellness of individuals and families living with disabilities by promoting in its deliberations the foundational principles of individualization, self-determination, productivity, employment, independence and full participation in community life by creating an effective learning environment, collaborative and focused discussion and the identification and sharing of effective practices useful in the United States and around the world.

About The University of Scranton

A Jesuit University in Pennsylvania's Pocono Northeast region, The University of Scranton is known for its outstanding academics, state-of-the-art campus and technology, and exceptional sense of community. Founded in 1888, the University has a student population of approximately 6,000 undergraduate and graduate students.

Conference Planning Members

Honorary Chairs	Patricia Connolly
Edward R. Leahy	Elizabeth Geeza
Patricia Leahy	Meg Hambrose
Lori Bruch,	Diane Muniz
<i>Conference Co-Chair</i>	Ralph Pacinelli
Valarie Clark	Debra Pellegrino
Rebecca Spirito Dalgin	Ray Schwenk
<i>Conference Co-Chair</i>	William G. Wallick

Program WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2015

7:45–8:30 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:30–8:45 a.m. Opening Remarks

Kevin P. Quinn, S.J., *President, The University of Scranton*
Debra A. Pellegrino, Ed.D., *Dean, The Panuska College of Professional Studies*

Edward R. and Patricia Leahy, *Honorary Conference Chairs*

8:45–10:00 a.m. Opening Keynote: **What's Working: Policies and Initiatives to Increase Employment of Individuals with Disabilities**

Laura Owens, *President of TransCen*

10:00–10:15 a.m. Networking Break

10:15–11:45 a.m. **Making it Happen! Successfully Hiring Employees with Disabilities**

Panel of Employers from the NET

Moderated by Kathy West-Evans, *Director of Business Relations, Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation—National Employment Team (CSAVR-NET)*

11:45 a.m.–1:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00–1:30 p.m. **Updates on PA OVR – Current and Future Initiatives**

David DeNotaris, *Executive Director, PA Office of Vocational Rehabilitation*

1:30–1:45 a.m. Networking Break

1:45–3:00 p.m. **Creating A Welcoming Culture**

A Panel of Local Employers

Moderated by Ralph Roach, *Business Services and Outreach Division Chief, OVR*

Rehabilitation Legislation Update

Patricia Leahy, *Director, Government Affairs, National Rehabilitation Association*

3:00–3:15 p.m. Networking Break

3:15–4:15 p.m. **Reaching our Highest Potentials: Examples of Assistive Technology and the Most Recent Innovations for Employment Success**

Jamie Prioli, *Assistive Technology Specialist and Program Coordinator, Pennsylvania Institute of Assistive Technology*

Current Issues Facing Rehabilitation Counselors

Lori A. Bruch, *Associate Professor, Chair, Department of Counseling and Human Services, University of Scranton*

4:30–6:00 p.m. **Evening Keynote Presentation – Open to the Public**

Rebecca Alexander, *Author of Not Fade Away*

For additional information:

Contact **Rebecca Spirito Dalgin, Ph.D., at**
rebecca.dalgin@scranton.edu/570-941-7819

Registration

ONLINE REGISTRATION: scranton.edu/disabilityconference

Payment for online registration may be made using Visa or MasterCard.

TO REGISTER BY MAIL: *Complete and return this form. Or print out the form online and return it with your check or money order. Visit www.scranton.edu/disabilityconference*

Name _____		
Title _____		
Organization _____		
Address _____		
City _____	State _____	Zip _____
Telephone _____	Fax _____	
E-mail _____		

Registration Cost

- Professional/Student: \$45
- Individual with a disability/Family: \$25

Method of Payment

- Check or money order payable to *"The University of Scranton"*

Special Accommodation *Requests must be made by October 2, 2015*

- I have special communication, accessibility, accommodation or dietary needs.

Please indicate

CEUs (pending) *Please indicate type of CEU required.*

- HRCI CEU Certification Number _____
- NBCC Certification Number _____
- CRCC Certification Number _____
- PA/Professional Counselor/LSW License Number _____

Conference Registration Deadline: October 16

Cancellations must be received on or before October 16.
There will be no refunds after that date.

Mail completed form and fee to:

disABILITY Conference
Panuska College of Professional Studies
The University of Scranton, Edward R. Leahy Jr. Hall, Room 224
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Hotel Information: Radisson Lackawanna Station

700 Lackawanna Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503 (570) 342-8300
The University room rate for a single/double room is \$104. The block is listed under U of S-Conference on disAbility and available until Sept. 20